been weeded out by States/UTs during the period 1.1.1992 to 31.7.1995. Illegal aliens residing in the country are not issued ration cards. It is possible that some illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan might have managed to get ration cards on the basis of false declaration in some States. Detailed verification on the basis of electoral identity cards will help in eliminating such ration cards.

Ration cards are generally issued by States/UTs only to those persons who apply for it. All identity card holders are eligible to get ration cards on application.

However, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that no ration cards have been issued to Bangladeshi/Pakistani Nationals in Delhi.

Request for investment in Hong Kong

1932. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Hong Kong authorities for Indian Investment in their country; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of rice from buffer stocks of FCI

1933. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export rice from the buffer rice stocks in control of FCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of stock of rice to be taken from storage godowns of FCI for export?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) In view of the continuing comfortable stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool Government has authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export upto two million tonnes of fine and superfine rice during 1995-96.

Unexploited deep seated coal reserves

1934. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether only easy open cast mining is being worked out in many of the coal fields by subsidiaries of Coal India Leaving, the deep seated reserves of coal unworked;

(b) if so, why deep seated reserves have been left unexploited;

(c) whether it is a fact that on the unexploited reserves of such deep seated coal, the State Governments loose royalty due to them on the exploitation of such reserves;

(d) whether the coal producing companies are not paying royalty to the State Government on the coal stocks which are produced but found to be short; and

(e) if so, under which provision of law such royalty is not being paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The choice of method of mining, whether opencast or underground, is generally dependent on factors like nature and geometry of coal deposit, geo-mining conditions and techno-economic and environmental considerations. With the depletion of the shallow reserves, depth of mining will gradually increase both in opencast as well as underground mines. Planning for extraction of deeper seams is linked to complete extraction of upper seams. Keeping in view the geological as well as techno economic factors, more underground mines for extraction of deeper reserves had been identified both in CIL and SCCL.

(c) to (e) Under the relevant provisions of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 royalty is payable on removal of coal from the leased area. As such the question of States losing royality on unexploited reserves and shortages does not arise.